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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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JAMES R. DeSANA, DIRECTOR

February 8, 2000

The Honorable Philip Hoffman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation  
Michigan State Senate  
P. O. Box 30036  
Lansing Michigan 48909

The Honorable Judith Scranton  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation  
Michigan House of Representatives  
P. O. Box 30014  
Lansing Michigan 48909

Dear Senator Hoffman and Representative Scranton:

Attached is the report, which addresses the requirement of Section 803 in Enrolled Senate Bill No. 372, the fiscal year 2000 appropriations bill for the Department of Transportation, as signed into law by Governor Engler on July 27, 1999.

Sec. 803 requires for fiscal 2000: "The appropriation in part I from the state aeronautics fund for transportation planning administration shall not be distributed until the department submits a report to the house and senate appropriations subcommittees on transportation and the house and senate fiscal agencies. The report shall describe how the appropriations for aeronautics planning have been spent in the last two years, and assess the current and future levels of funding needed for this purpose."

The report is submitted to you in fulfillment of this requirement. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either me, or Louis Lambert, Deputy Director, Bureau of Transportation Planning, at 373-0343.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Rosine".

Greg Rosine  
Chief Administrative Officer

cc: W. Hamilton, House Fiscal Agency  
P. Alderfer, Senate Fiscal Agency

BTP:TPS:sv:pah

bcc: L. Lambert  
S. Mortel  
J. Brush  
D. Kiter  
W. Gehman  
O. House  
T. Horsfall  
L. Nelhiebel  
J. Kraus

**Fiscal Year 2000  
Aeronautics Fund  
Appropriations Bill Report  
SB No. 372, Section 803 -  
Submitted by the Michigan Department of Transportation  
Bureau of Transportation Planning,**

Reprinted from SB No. 372

Sec. 803. The appropriation in part I from the state aeronautics fund for transportation planning administration shall not be distributed until the department submits a report to the house and senate appropriations subcommittees on transportation and the house and senate fiscal agencies. The report shall describe in detail how the appropriations for aeronautics planning, have been spent in the last 2 years, and assess the current and future levels of funding needed for this purpose.

**Program Overview**

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Bureau of Transportation Planning has been supporting, state aeronautics efforts for more than 25 years. Key functions include:

- Preparation and maintenance of the Michigan Airport System Plan and recommended changes to the National Plan of Integrated Airports System (NPIAS) which are required for airport development projects to be eligible for state and federal funding, respectively.
- Participation on Airport Master Plan and Airport Layout Plan study teams that examine current airport needs, assess future (20 year) airport needs, and develop a plan to respond to those needs.
- Preparation and review of project justification through development of airport activity forecasts.
- Oversee data collection and prepare Airport Pavement Condition Reports which are essential to the timely and effective management of pavements.
- Preparation of Economic Studies which have proven useful in securing, local support for community airports. Statewide, the economic benefits of aviation in 1999 was estimated at \$9.3 billion.
- Collection and maintenance of data necessary to support the above functions.
- Review environmental documents for non-major action determinations for categorical exclusions. Also review environmental assessments and environmental impact statements for compliance with all state environmental guidelines. Monitor wetland mitigation sites and document findings at select airports.

In recent years, this program has been managed by an aviation specialist in the Bureau of Transportation Planning with additional staff resources utilized in support of specific functions.

## **Aeronautics Planning Program Assessment**

The following major aviation related activities have been completed in recent years:

- Managed development of the Michigan Airport System Plan (MASP) which is being developed using Michigan Department of Transportation staff resources from the Bureau of Transportation Planning and the Bureau of Aeronautics. The overall goal of the MASP is to define the role of airports within the system and the development needs at those facilities through the year 2020. This has been a major undertaking this past year. The final MASP report was adopted by the Michigan Aeronautics Commission on January 20, 2000.
- Conducted Airport Planning Studies identifying critical aircraft which determine the basis for airport master planning and program/project development.
- Maintained aviation related data in MDOT's Transportation Management System (TMS) data base.
- **Maintained Aircraft Operations Program; each year collected control tower usage information at 14 airports, conducted traffic counts at 70 airports, prepared estimates of usage for all 240 public use airports.**
- Each year compiled and monitored air service statistics on passengers, mail and cargo at all air service airports in Michigan.
- Each year prepared an inventory of the availability of commercial air service provided at all Michigan airports.
- Each year conducted Community Benefits Assessments at nearly 100 airports. Prepared a presentation that has been made to statewide conference of aviation officials, and subsequently incorporated into airport preservation efforts, and Michigan's continuing education program for pilots.
- Conducted a statewide pilot survey to determine airport requirements from the pilots perspective.
- Managed the airport condition contract which each year resulted in airport condition surveys, map updates, and reports for 30 airports. Also during this period converted all existing airport condition data into new software format; and acquired a site license for new software.

## **Aeronautics Planning FY1998-FY2001 Funding Summary**

	FY97-98	FY98-99	FY99-00	FY00-01
Budget Appropriation From AERO Fund	\$226,700	\$228,400	\$267,000	\$300,500
Actual Expenditures From AERO Fund	\$196,918	\$300,879		
Notes: Beginning in FY96-97 expenditures drawn from the AERO fund are based on actual costs incurred by BTP. The FY99-00 and FY00-01 proposed appropriation includes costs associated with completion of the MASP and an update of the Community Benefits Assessment methodology. FY99 expenditures exceeded appropriations amount due to management decision to conduct the MASP utilizing staff resources rather than consultant resources.				
Source: BTP, Management Information System - FY98/99 Year End Summary				1-31-00

## Summary

The above described ongoing planning activities are expected to continue. Additional major activities to be undertaken in upcoming years include:

- Following adoption of the Michigan Airport System Plan, participate in development of an Aviation Investment Strategy.
- Update the Community Benefits Assessment (CBA) methodology. Originally developed in 1989, the CBA methodology needs to be revisited to validate/modify study parameters. Also a marketing strategy needs to be developed to disseminate this data in a timely and effective manner.